

MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)  
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)  
MINUTES OF February MEETING:  
Monday, February 7, 2011  
Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue, Conference Room C-1  
Annapolis, Maryland  
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

**Present:** Chair Auriel A. Fenwick, Vice Chair Thomas W. Windsor II, Virginia Busby, Wanda Lee, Sherry Majors, Guy Wells

**Absent:** Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh, Cornelius Allen Red Deer

**Staff Present:** E. Keith Colston, Agnes M. Smith

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Chair Auriel A. Fenwick called the meeting to order. Chair Fenwick spoke about the difficult year for the Eastern Woodland Natives with the losses and situations concerning our communities and leaders. She noted that the Commission was morning Sherry Majors Brother, Wanda Lee Mother, Auriel Fenwick Grandfather, Dr. Helen Maynor Scheirbeck, Ray Littleturtle and Head Clan Mother Joyce Elistine (Howard) Browne. She noted that after the invocation there would be a moment of silence.

Invocation by Chief Rudy Laughing Otter Hall

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER 4, 2010  
MINUTES: Commissioner Wanda lee

SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER 4, 2010 MINUTES: Commissioner  
Guy Wells

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Administrator Keith Colston's report included highlights of major points and events in November for Native American Heritage Month. He also noted some funerals attended on behalf of MCIA. The Administrator's Report can be found on MCIA website: [www.americanindian.maryland.gov](http://www.americanindian.maryland.gov).

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
**REPATRIATION**

Commissioner Virginia Busby informed the Commission of the last Repatriation Meeting held on Friday, January 28, 2011. She noted that Ms. Gina Hamilton and she met VIA phone. They discussed how they were going to move forward. They will continue meeting until remains are in ground. She noted the remains will be going to Jefferson Patterson Park shortly. They are waiting for the weather to break and when the soil can be excavated. Commissioner Busby noted that the clay tablets have been completed. She noted that the next remains to go in the ground will probably be the Eastern Shore. The Trust has work to do with Chief Crowe. They have reiterated their dedication. They are still moving forward. She noted they will keep working through the list.

Chief Hall informed the Commission that they were looking at the Nause Abongo property on the Eastern Shore.

Commissioner Busby noted that the Trust can work with the Department of Natural Resources lawyers. She also noted that they already have a model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Trust is actively moving forward.

Ms. Carol Ebright asked what was on the clay tablets. Commissioner Busby noted that there were three lines with minimal information.

Commissioner Busby informed the Commission that for the Eastern Shore they are looking for DNR Forestry land. She noted that the State agencies need to discuss with each other what needs to happen.

Mr. Rico Newman spoke about the Piscataway remains the Trust was holding. He noted having them put where they were removed from would be idea but knows it's not going to happen. Mr. Newman noted that there was a new contact at Jefferson Patterson Park that he is bringing up to speed. He suggested the Commission to invite the New Executive Director at Jefferson Patterson Park. He noted it would be good to have him come in. Invite him to the next Repatriation meeting and teleconference.

Mr. Newman asked about issues for future discoveries. Commissioner Busby noted that they have to work on what will be the protocol.

Ms. Kate Dinnel informed the Commission that Mr. Mark Thompson is the new Executive Director for Jefferson Patterson Park. Mr. Thompson is from Maine and just started last week.

Chair Fenwick noted that it is a good idea to invite Mr. Thompson to the next Commission meeting.

#### **SWEAT LODGE:**

Commissioner Guy Wells told the Commission that at both sites everything is progressing well. He noted that at ECI they have an individual working with them for the Sweats themselves. He also noted that the Lodge will be rebuilt this spring before the first Sweat.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Commissioner Wanda Lee spoke about the guest at the last Commissioner meeting with one being Ms. Mary Davis, Anne Arundel County, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist who Dr. Marci Thoma recommended to come speak to Commission. Commissioner Lee noted that there are people who want to volunteer and help write a curriculum. Dr. Thoma is very serious. It was noted that the Commission needs to meet with Dr. Thoma first then partner with the museum for resources. Commissioner Lee will set-up a meeting with Dr. Thoma at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 W Baltimore Street. She noted that she would like to have at least three people to attend this meeting. It was noted that one of the persons should be Commissioner Cornelius Allen Red Deer. There should be a date with the next two weeks.

Commissioner Sherry Majors spoke about the University of Salisbury President Peggy Mcquire wanting to help with the American Indian curriculum.

Mr. Newman noted that up until recently there was Indian education. He noted that there are jurisdictions with this information. There are resources to tap into. He informed the Commission about a presentation that Dr. Thoma did at Jefferson Patterson Park. Mr. Newman

noted that there were some federal resources as well as Virginia's Standard of learning. Mr. Newman will send the information to the Commission.  
Commissioner Busby noted that the Commission needs to do this.

Ms. Debra Henry noted that when she was doing her presentation she noticed that the text book used a lot of outdated information from 1963 or earlier.

Commissioner Lee noted that the correct information needs to be gathered. She noted that people are willing to help but they do not have the time to research and write the curriculum. The Natives have to step up so this outdated material can be removed.

Ms. Dinnel noted that a curriculum is one thing but they need the content.

Commissioner Majors noted that there is an abundance of information out there.

Chair Fenwick noted that the next step in the process is to meet with Dr. Thoma.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Fenwick noted that the mission and commitment of the Commission for 2011 will be to have recognized tribes, Accohonnock, PCT and PIN; Repatriation and have the Advisory Committee in place. The Commission has a Resolution for the required Environmental Competency in the school system. She noted that there was a fast turnaround but the Commission was able to vote on this and it was sent out.

Administrator Colston noted that Mr. Newman sent the information to the Commission, the Chair wrote the Resolution, it was reviewed by Mr. Phil Deters and voted on by the Commission.

Mr. Newman noted that we need to teach the children from the time they start school and graduate about the environment. He noted that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has an on-line questionnaire. This will let you know how much you know about the environment.

It was noted that a link be put on the Commission website to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Chair Fenwick noted that in private school it's mainstream on how they affect the environment. This is prior to five years old. It's unfortunate it's not in public school since most of our children go to public school.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Joint Commissions Legislative Reception, March 10, 2011, 4:00 pm. – 9:00 p.m., Miller Senate Building

Administrator Colston noted that the Commission can receive funding by donation, etc. He also noted that for grant information people need to contact Mr. Eric Brenner.

February 14, 2011 – July 8, 2011, Longest Walk III (Reversing Diabetes)

The new President of the Charles County Commission want the Commission to send a letter to the Governor concerning the PCT Recognition Petition.

Chair Fenwick noted that the process has not been upheld. She again noted that the top two missions of the Commissions is to have a recognized tribe and the Repatriation. She noted that of the thirteen (13) original colonies, Maryland is the only state without recognized tribes.

Mr. Newman noted that Maryland will be celebrating its 377 birthday next month.

Chair Fenwick noted that the Commission needs to hold Governor O'Malley accountable for not have State recognized tribes.

Chief Hall spoke about Ms. Ann Neilson received a grant for a project called "Catching Shadows". He noted she had made arrangements for display, press, TV station, etc. but the museum refused to honor the appointment. He wants the Commission to look into it and help see what the problem is.

Commissioner Majors noted that this project was worked on for several months. It was noted that since Maryland has no recognized tribes she needed to come up with a 50/50 match which was too much.

Ms. Beverly Littlehawk noted that it hurts her heart how the Natives in Maryland are treated. Natives have given to this State more then it will ever get back. It's time for Natives to work together.

Chair Fenwick asked everyone to keep Commissioner Kathy Fitzhugh and her family in prayer.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn Chair Fenwick, and seconded by Vice Chair Thomas Windsor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.